Export and import with Thailand

156. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Thailand is the fifteenth largest market for Indian items;

(b) if so, the value of export and import made by the two countries during the previous year;

(c) whether there is a gap in regard to export and import made between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to reduce the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) As per the statistics available with the DGCI&S, Thailand ranked 16th amongst the countries importing goods from India during 1995-96.

(b) The details of bilateral trade between the two country during 1995-96 arc as under:

(Value in Million US $)

Export	Import	Total Trade	Balance of Trade
474.31	168.29	642.60	(+) 306.02

(c) and (d) Since India is having favourable balance of trade with Thailand, no specific steps are contemplated to reduce the trade gap. However, various measures have been taken to boost the bilateral trade between India and Thailand which include holding of regular meetings of the Joint Trade Committee between the two countries, exchange of business delegations, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions in each other's countries and continuous interaction at official levels to sort out various operational problems in free flow of trade.

Trade with Saudi Arabia

157. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total import and export to Saudi Arabia during the last three years;

(b) the steps being taken to improve our trade relations with Saudi Arabia which is an important country in the Middle East; and

(c) the number of trade delegation sent to Saudi Arabia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) The total imports and exports to Saudi Arabia from India during the last three years has been as under:—

(Rupees in Crores)

Years	Exports	Imports
1993-94	1600.04	4864.69
1994-95	1368.00	4927.19
1995-96	1603.52	6748.17

(b) The steps taken to improve our trade relations with Saudi Arabia, include holding to Joint Commission Meetings, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, exchange of commercial information, exchange of delegations, diversification of export basket to include non-traditional products, reviewing the trade situation continuously to take corrective measures etc.

(c) Three official delegations were sent during last 3 years.

Export growth

158. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) how does the export growth during the current year compare with the performance during the previous fiscal year;